

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05

EUR-12 ITC-01 ORM-02 DHA-02 /100 W

-----063962 170949Z /17

P R 170900Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8668

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWSON ASEAN; AND  
US CONSULTATIONS

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 5473 (NOTAL)

1. I CALLED ON GOM FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN AUGUST 16  
TO OBTAIN HIS VIEWS ON THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT ASEAN  
SUMMIT AND ON ASEAN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE,  
AUSTRALIANS AND NEW ZEALANDERS. WE ALSO DISCUSSED BRIEFLY  
THE FORTHCOMING US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS IN MANILA.

2. RITHAUDDEEN SAID THAT THE ASEAN CHIEFS OF STATE HAD  
DISCUSSED ECONOMIES ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN THE SUMMIT  
MEETINGS. HE DESCRIBED ESSENTIALLY WHAT HAS ALREADY  
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BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS, THE VARIOUS PUBLIC COMMUNIQUE,  
AND ELSEWHERE IN THIS REGARD. ON THE FIVE ASEAN DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECTS, HE NOTED THAT THERE WAS STILL THE INTENTION  
TO GO AHEAD WITH THESE BUT THAT THEY NEEDED FURTHER  
FEASIBILITY STUDIES BEFORE THEY COULD ACTUALLY BE  
CARRIED OUT. REGARDING INTRA-ASEAN TARIFF REDUCTIONS,  
HE SAID THAT SINGAPORE HAD INDEED PRESSED FOR FURTHER

CUTS IN ADDITIONAL ITEMS BEYOND THE ORIGINAL 71 AGREED, BUT THAT OTHERS HAD OPPOSED THIS AND WISHED TO GO MUCH SLOWER. RITHAUDDEEN ALSO INDICATED THAT THE SUMMITTEERS HAD SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME PREPARING A COMMON POSITION FOR THEIR SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.

3. IN POLITICAL TERMS, RITHAUDDEEN FELT THAT THE SUMMIT HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN REINFORCING THE FEELING OF ASEAN UNITY GENERALLY. HE NOTED THAT THE CHIEFS OF STATE HAD INFORMALLY DISCUSSED THE ASEAN-INDOCHINA EQUATION BUT HE GAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, WITH MY OBSERVATION THAT ASEAN HAD TAKEN SHARP VIETNAMESE AND SOVIET CRITICISM IN STRIDE AND SAID MALAYSIA AND OTHERS STILL FEEL IT NECESSARY TO TRY TO EXTEND THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TO THE INDOCHINA COUNTRIES. HE DID NOT MENTION ANY DISCUSSIONS OF THE GOM'S FAVORITE IDEA - THE ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM, AND NEUTRALITY. RITHAUDDEEN DID NOTE THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS' STATEMENT ON THE SABAH QUESTION HAD BEEN HELPFUL TO FURTHER THE SPIRIT OF ASEAN UNITY AND UTILITY, THOUGH HE STATED THIS MARKED ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A FULL AND FINAL RENUNCIATION OF THE SABAH CLAIM.

4. RITHAUDDEEN DESCRIBED THE ASEAN CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND AS QUITE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SATISFACTORY. AGAIN, HE NOTED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE ALMOST ENTIRELY ECONOMIC AND THAT THE RESULTS HAD BEEN REPORTED FULLY IN COMMUNIQUE AND PRESS REPORTS.

5. RITHAUDDEEN SAID THAT ASEAN WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN MANILA NEXT MONTH. HE FELT THAT THE FOCUS WOULD BE IN THREE PRIMARY AREAS - NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES INCLUDING THE COMMODITIES STABILIZATION FUND, U.S.- ASEAN TRADE QUESTIONS, AND U.S. INVESTMENT IN THE REGION. HE SAID THAT IT APPEARED THAT THE GOM'S MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, DATUK HAMZAH, WOULD BE REPRESENTING MALAYSIA AT THE CONSULTATIONS. (COMMENT: THIS CONTRADICTS WHAT MFA SOURCES TOLD US PREVIOUSLY --SEE REFTTEL. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED OTHER REPORTS AS WELL THAT HAMZAH WILL IN FACT BE IN MANILA FOR THE CONSULTATIONS.) RITHAUDDEEN ALSO SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT UNDERSECRETARY COOPER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE WOULD BE COMING TO KUALA LUMPUR AND THAT THE GOM WELCOMED THEIR VISITS. HE SAID HE HIMSELF WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HEARING HOLBROOKE'S

ACCOUNT OF THE SECRETARY'S CHINA TRIP.

7. RITHAUDDEEN'S COMMENTS ON REFUGEES HAVE BEEN  
REPORTED SEPTEL.  
MILLER

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## Message Attributes

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